

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for modifying a tobacco curing barn for the purpose of providing conditions suitable for curing tobacco such that resulting cured tobacco obtained from such barn possesses a tobacco specific nitrosamine content lower than that prior to such modification, the method comprising the steps of:
5 providing a tobacco curing barn equipped with a direct fire heating unit, removing the direct fire heating unit from the barn, equipping the barn with a heating unit that does not provide contact of tobacco within the barn with exhaust gases containing nitric oxide combustion products during cure, and
10 equipping the barn such that the barn is operational for tobacco cure.
2. The method of Claim 1 whereby the direct-fire heating unit burns propane.
3. The method of Claim 1 whereby the direct-fire heating unit is physically removed from the barn.
4. The method of Claim 1 whereby the direct-fire heating unit is disabled from
15 use during curing.
5. The method of Claim 1 whereby nitric oxide levels within the barn during curing approximate that of ambient, environmental air surrounding the barn.
6. The method of Claim 1 whereby the barn is equipped with a heat exchange unit.
- 20 7. The method of Claim 1 whereby the barn is equipped with an electrical heating unit.
8. A method for curing tobacco using a tobacco curing barn for the purpose of providing cured tobacco possessing a tobacco specific nitrosamine content of less than 2 parts per million, based on the dry weight of the cured tobacco, the
25 method comprising the steps of: providing green tobacco, placing the green tobacco in the curing barn, subjecting the tobacco to application of heat from a non-direct-fire heating source so as to cure the tobacco, and avoiding exposure of the tobacco during curing to nitric oxide gases.
9. The method of Claim 8 whereby the cured tobacco possesses at tobacco
30 specific nitrosamine content of less than 1 part per million, based on the dry weight of the cured tobacco.
10. The method of Claim 8 whereby the cured tobacco possesses a tobacco specific nitrosamine content that is essentially undetectable.

11. The method of Claim 8 whereby the non-direct-fire heating source is a heat exchange unit.
12. The method of Claim 8 whereby the non-direct-fire heating source is an electrically powered heating unit.
- 5 13. The method of Claim 8 further comprising equipping the barn with means to remove nitric oxide from air within that barn.